THE SOUNDER'S CURISTMAS.

"And how are you after Christmas?" This time the individual addressed was a most

miserable specimen of humanity, with care-

He went on a "toot" or "bat" Thursday

been a temporary exhibaration the reaction exhibited itself in the light of absolute despair

FAVORS FOR LITTLE DINNERS.

Rivalry in the Giving of Them-Some Points on Aristocracy in New York.

667THE FASHION OF GIVING COSTLY

miniature at \$10 each. On other occasions

each one of the ladies present would have a

feather fan with an oval mirror in the middle.

valued at \$8. Embroidered sachets at \$15 a

piece, and imported hand mirrors framed in ivory and silver, for the men and women re-

spectively, were thought particularly appro-

"I have known opera bats in pink, blue and

yellow silk to be used as favors for the gentle-

some very rich people hand-painted bon-bonnieres of china and crystal were given to the women, while the men had cigar cases of

like materials. The china was real Sevres an

the articles were worth \$50 each. Gentleme sometimes get beautiful cigar cases as favors, while gilded hay rakes, adorned with ribbons and bells, are much cheaper, costing only \$2

FROM THE JEWELERS.

'Inexpensive trifles may do well enough for

condemn a New York hostess as stingy, if

poor people, but such small gifts would be apt

she offered them at a dinner at her house.

Mrs. Astor or any one o? the Vanderbilt ladies would never think of depending upon their caterer for their favors. They go to the big jewelers for the purpose and buy rings, scarf pins, gold brooches and even diamonds. Of course,

content themselves with being 'out of it.' This state of affairs engenders a pleasant sort of rivalry which affords a suggestion of the causes which bring about large business failures. Certain ignorant persons, doubtless inspired by jealousy, have gone so far as to assert that display of such a kind is vulgar; but it goes without saying that the Astors and the Vanderbilts could never be vulgar.

"Speaking of aristocrats, there are some very interesting ones among the Four Hundred in

interesting ones among the Four Hundred in York. A lady, who was one of my most profit-

able customers, came to my place of business near the Fifth Avenue Hotel a while ago in a

great hurry. She said that she wanted an elab-orate dinner for twelve persons served an hour

"Her reply was:
"Oh, blankety-blankety-blank it! If you don't have that blankety-blank dinner on time an hour from now, blank you, I will withdraw my custom from your blankety-blank establishment.

"That is not the usual language of fashion in

New York city, but we caterers are obliged to put up with it occasionally when a customer is displeased or impatient."

The Man Who Dropped.

From the Detroit Free Press.

He was about to make his way around to

the side gate of a house on Montcalm street

when a woman opened the front door and

He came back, looked at her and cautiously

began ascending the steps as he said:
"Madam, it is through no fault of mine that
I have been brought to this—"
"Oh, certainly not—walk right in!" she in-

"Yes'm."
"Well, I am the person. Hang your hat on

the hall tree, please."
"Madam," he said as he hung his old cap on

"I see. Walk into the parlor and sit down a moment. You are in search of work-wood to saw, coal to bring in, &c.?"

"Yes'm."
"Poor man! How hard it must be to go

about looking for work! You haven't eaten anything today?"
"No'm, I got up at daylight this morning and

tramp.
"Certainly; won't take me over half an hour.

Do you like your mince pie het or cold, and do you prefer strong coffee?"

He sat rubbing one old shoe over the other,

too astonished to reply, and she continued:
"I am so glad you happened to call here.
If you don't object to dark clothes I can fit you out with a suit almost new. Can you est bread with your dinner or shall I make some hot bisonit?"

he sat with his mouth open.

"How dreadful you must feel—wife and children dead—no home—in poor health and

terrupted; "you wish to see

a peg, "I was going to call at the back

"'Madam, it is impossible."

later. Said I:

door.'

hment So now!

A favors at dinners and on other such occa-

## GREENLEAFS

The Arsenal Grounds and Their History.

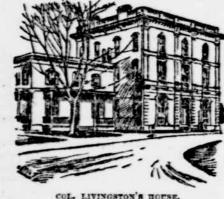
WHERE A FORT ONCE STOOD.

A Place That Witnessed Many Lively Scenes During Two Wars-The Old Penitentiary and the Burial Place of J. Wilkes Booth-The Present Garrison of the Washington

A RSENAL PARK, OR WASHINGTON BAR-racks, as it is now officially called, although one of the finest and most attractive of our city parks, is but little known to the average citizen. It is practically as little known to the majority of Washingtonians as though it was located in a distant state. These beautiful mounds are on Greenleaf's point (the most southern point of the city), the entrance being at the foot of 41/4 street southwest. Technically, as stated, these grounds are now "Washington Barracks," but they are better known by the old name, arsenal grounds, which will probably always cling to

In reality the park is a sort of suburb itself. shut out, in a measure, from the rest of the city, with its approach guarded by United It occupies the neek of land formed by the

Potomac and Anacostis rivers and James Creek canal. In the most sultry summer weather re-freshing breezes are wafted over this peninsula from the waters. A cool breeze is always stir-



COL. LIVINGSTON'S HOUSE. ring here, and the fine, ornamental shade trees that canopy the attractive walks and drives afford protection from the direct rays of the There are eighty acres in the park and it stands some twelve feet above high water.

THE HISTORY OF THE GROUNDS. The history of this spot is as long as that of the city itself and is full of interest. It was well as those of the other executed conspira-

important depot of supplies.
In 1812, immediately upon the de erected on the sides approachable by water. From this time the place was known by the name of Fort Washington.

During the night of the 24th of August, 1814,

the fort was abandoned, after setting fire to the work shops, &c. Next morning it was occupied by a detachment of 500 British troops, pied by a detachment of 500 British troops, many of whom were soon afterward killed by an accidental explosion of powder. The work shops were rebuilt the following year. In 1816 a large store house and officers quarters were

erected.

In 1822-24 the garrison was withdrawn, the ramparts removed and permanent buildings, exclusively for arsenal purposes, erected on the same ground, making, with those built in 1816, a quadrangle.

During the civil war the arsenal was a busy place, great quantities of ammunition being manufactured there. The buildings on the east side of the grounds were erected during that period, and it was the depot of ordnauce

and Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Battery L showed its valor on the bloody fields of Gamiss' Mill. Malvern Hill, Antietam and Fredericksburg, Virginia.

A dozen or more of the enlisted men and several of the officers are veterans of the late

war, most of them having served with this regiment.

The third artillery can boast of many dis-The third artillery can boast of many distinguished names on its proud roll, among them being those of the two Shermans (William Tecumseh and Thomas West), George H. Thomas, John F. Reynolds, Henry J. Hunt, Ord, Burnside, Angus, Robert Anderson, Macomb, Getty, De Russy, Armistad, Gates, Dent, &c. Hardie, Braxton, Bragg and Windows of confernit for the articles of the confernit for the state of the state o Winder of confederate fame, are also there.



The inte Col. Robert N. Scott, who organized the rebellion records office, once held a com-mission in this regiment. A STROLL THROUGH THE GROUNDS

Now, having learned these facts, let us move trough and inspect the grounds. Entering great gate at the foot of 416 street on the right is the post hospital with its big Greek cross. On the left, inside the gate, are the guard quarters. A little further on, also on the left, two one-story brick buildings are observed. These are the magazines where the ammunition is kept. On the left beyond here is the rifle target-practice range, 1,400 yards long. The waters of the Potomac glisten on the right. Over on the extreme eastern margin of the

grounds, on the bank of the old canal, were once a couple of attractive fish ponds belonging to the United States fish commission, but they are now dried up and abandoned.

Reaching the fountain which plays in the center of a pretty ellipse, we are on the threshold of historic ground. The two buildings to the right and left, respectively, are spared wings of the old Washington penitentiary, which stood here until 1869, when the main portion was torn down. The west wing is now used at the residence of the country. used as the residence of the commandant of the post. Col. Livingston, while the other is occupied by Maj. Ramsay and his family. Back o this latter building, over by James Creek canal was once the burying ground for penitentiary convicts, but there is no trace of it left today Part of the foundation wall of the old peni tentiary building can be seen to the southward of the guard house. WHERE BOOTH WAS BURIED.

It will be remembered that the remains of Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln as and Saturday morning, between 10 and 11 tors were buried in one of the cells of the old manufacture and storage of military supplies.

Shops were erected in 1807, when it became an ville prison keeper, was also buried here. They



were all removed, however, when the building was torn down. The scaffold upon which the conspirators were executed stood on the

THE POST HEADQUARTERS.

As you advance along the eastern walks the bright light yellow new coats in which the that period, and it was the depot of ordnauce supplies for the old army of the Potomac. A powder explosion in 1864 blew up one of these buildings, twenty-one young girls being killed by it. The ruins of the explosion are now visible south of the guard house.

The add Washington and the explosion are now visible south of the guard house. south of the guard house.

The old Washington penitentiary stood a little north of the guard house until 1869, when it was removed.

In 1881 the place was converted into barracks for detachments of the United States troops



THE MAIN ROAD

and named Washington barracks. Several captured cannon with interesting histories, mounted in the grounds, were removed at the

THE GARRISON. The garrison of the barracks usually comprises half a dozen batteries of light artillery. The present garrison consists of batteries A. C. E. H. K and L of the third artillery, Col. La Rhett L. Livingston commanding. One of the batteries (C) is mounted, the others doing duty on foot. There are 350 officers and men all told. They have occupied the place since the summer of 1865, coming here from St. Au-

gustine, Fla.

The other staff efficers with the garrison are: The other steff efficers with the garrison are:

J. G. Ramsay, major: W. E. Birkham, adjutant;
C. W. liobbs, quartermaster; J. C. Carson, surgeon, and W. E. Bannister, assistant surgeon.
The third artillery was organized by an act of Congress March 21, 1821, from the corps of artillery fermed by act of March 30, 1802, from the two regiments of artillerys and engineers, authorized by act of March 3, 1799; the second and third regiments of artillery, organized by act of January 11, 1812; the regiment of light artillery organized by act of April 12, 1808, and the ordinance department, organized by act of February 8, 1815, and merged in the artillery by act of March 2, 1821. Ordinance separated from artillery by acts of April 5, 1832, and July 5, 1838.

The regiment has had a brilliant record since its organization, as the list of battles recorded on its flagstoff will show. Its blood was spilled in many wars and in many hard-fought battles.

Of the batteries comprising the garrison the records of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the statement of the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are particular to the precords of C. E. K. and L. Are

Of the batteries comprising the garrison the records of C, E, K and L are particularly good. They served in the army of the Potomac during the late war, and saw some hard fighting.

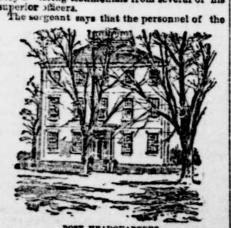
Battery C participated in the battles of Will-lamsburg, Antictam, Fredericksburg and Rob-

ertson's Ford, Virginia.

Eattery E saw hard fighting on the fields of Biackburn's Ford, Second Bull Run and Port Waithal Junction, Virginia, and Pocatalica, South Carolina, and Otustee, Florida.

Battery E fought gainantly at Maivern Hill

campaign and garrison duties. The busiest man, without question, in the post is Sergt. Maj. Frederick Semple. The sergeant is a model officer andhis office is a model of method. He has charge of the correspondence, reports, returns and records of the twelve batteries that constitute the regiment, and the manner in which the work is done reflects great evolution. constitute the regiment, and the manner in which the work is done reflects great credit on his ability. The duties are congental to him, and he will enlist for a fourth time in a few days. He has been in the service nearly fifteen years, but is yet a young man, being in his thirty-fifth year. He is the proud possessor of very flattering testimenials from several of his



as from actual practice, and dereliction on his part will cost him his non-commissioned war-rant. The result of this training is that the service is supplied with competent non-com-missioned officers, capable of filling higher THE OFFICERS' QUARTERS.

The next building as you advance is occupied s officers' quarters. The light-green tinted cottages in the real are occupied by the non-commissioned staff and their families. The bakery is also located

The next building south is occupied as library and reading room, school room, subsistence and quartermaster's offices and store rooms. and quartermaster's offices and store rooms.

The library is not what it eught to be, there being but a small collection of books, but many of the leading newspapers are found on the tables. In this room are some interesting relics. On one of the window sills is nailed a piece of the scaffold used for executing the Lincoln conspirators—Mrs. Surratt, Herold, Adzerott and Payne—and on the vell near the door are four photographs illustrating the different stages in the execution ceremonies, as follows: No. 1, arrival on scaffold; No. 2, reading the death warrant; No. 3, adjusting the ropes; No. 4, sic semper sicarris. (The executed are hanging by the neck). The execution took place on July 7, 1865.

Wirz, the Andersonville prison keeper, was also executed here. also executed here.

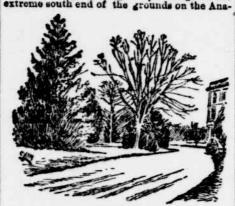
THE BARBACES. The two next large buildings to the southward are used as barracks for the men, the small buildings standing between them being the quartermaster's and officers' carriage house and stables. The large L in the rear of the north building of this group is called Recrea-tion Hall, and here it is that the people living in the barracks have their 'musements. Here they have their dances, parties, &c. The they have their dances, parties, &c. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union occupy it every Wednesday evening. The floor is well waxed and the walls. &c., are beautifully draped with old flags, guidons, and pictures. The flags and guidons are mostly regimental and battery ones, used during the late war, and they show signs of hard usage. The Maltese cross of the old fifth corps of the Army of the Potomae is numerously represented in the decorations. sented in the decorations.

There is talk of turning the lower hall of this wing into a billiard room for the use of the

THE CANTEEN. The band and a part of the non-commissioned taff occupy the next building, in the rear of which is the red canteen, where nearly everything the soldier needs in the way of eatables and drinkables (except wine and distilled spirits) is sold. Beer is the only intoxicating beverage allowed to be sold, and it is of the best quality made. Nearly every officer and soldier that you question on the subject will tell you that the army canteen is a good thing; that it is good for the soldier is need to rethat it is good for the soldier's pocket and mor-als, as well as being in the interest of better discipline among the men. It is said that there discipline among the men. It is said that there is less drinking and drunkenness than under the old method. Instead of wandering around the streets, exposed to the many temptations that beset young men, the boys remain in camp and drink their beer if they feel so disposed.

The stable for battery horses is located a lit-

tle south of the canteen. The buildings forming the quadrangle in the extreme south end of the grounds on the Ana-



THE CIRCLE costia are occupied by officers of the post. This is the oldest part of the post and it was in this point that the old fort originally stood.

THE QUADRANGLE, Weather permitting, band concerts are given in the quadrangle every Tuesday, Thursday o'clock, and again in the afternoon between 5

Guard mount occurs at 9:15 each morning. when bugle music is a feature.

Dress parade is at sundown every evening.

There used to be a good wharf at the southwest corner of the grounds, but it was washed away by the big flood of 1889. The ruius are away by the Dig mood of 1889. The ruins are still visible. During the bustle and excitement of the war period this was an animated place. The large ocean steamers that could not find deep enough water wharfage up at the city wharves tied up here. The nineteenth army corps, after being hurried from City Point in July, 1864, disembarked here, one division double suicking out to Fore Street. double quicking out to Fort Stevens in aid of the sixth corps, while the other division pushed up through Georgetown to the vicinity of the

A LOADED MUFF.

An Oil Dealer's Narrow Escare From a Dose of Cold Steel.

From the Oil City Derrick. A party of well-known oil men who have followed the producing business from its infancy and have worked in all its different branches, from dripping oil to running several sets of tools as contractors, were at the Union depot waiting for the train on their way to the Mc-Donald field Sunday, when the talk drifted to old times and narrow escapes they had seen and personal reminiscences. One of the party, who had quietly listened to the talk, puffed pervously at his toby and remarked: "Talk about scares, boys; did I ever tell you

of the scare I had in the seventies, when I was running the tools in the Millerstown field? You know the time that young fellow who came up from Butler and started a pop factory in Millerstown, and after making collections in Eutler of over \$300 was waylaid on the road, shot through the head and his body found in the woods, where it had been dragged by the murderer, with the pockets of the clothing rifled and no clue to the thief. It was a short time after that—in the winter. There had been a heavy snow and the sleighing was splendid, and I had a four-year-old colt that cost me \$250 when it was a year old and these cost me \$250 when it was a year old, and that did not take dust from anything that traveled in the middle oil field.

"The man I was drilling for was sick and

"The man I was drilling for was sick and sent me word to come to Butler and he would pay me for work done on his four wells that month. I drove over bright and early and got a check for i1,100. I met several friends and being in no special hurry I drove around town until nearly time for the bank to close. As I got the cash and turned I saw a man eyeing the money so greedily that an involuntary shiver of fear passed over me. I forgot the incident and monkeyed around in the town until nearly 10 o'clock that night, when I started for home.

"Half way home was a piece of dark woods in which the body of the young popmaker had been found. As I looked at the side of the road I shivered with apprehension in spite of hem. We wife ken

MUSINGS ON CHRISTMAS

The Different Experiences of Different People.

THE DAY AFTER CELEBRATING

worn eyes, husky voice and a general listless-ness of appearance. He said he had enjoyed himself, but as a matter of fact gentlemen of his class don't known what enjoyment is, for he belongs to the noble order of "rounders." Let us see how the rounder spent Christmas A Dream of Boyhood-Children's Anticipa tions and Realizations-How the Day Should Have Been Spent-A Father Who Was Bored-The Rounder's Celebration.

Was Bored—The Rounder's Celebration.

\*\*GOT ANY MONEY?\*\*

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\*\*GOT The inquiry was put to the father of a family was got a "isage on" early. Later on, being "fuller than a tic"—neavens! what a quantity of technical term required to describe the "rounder's" doings—he started out to "paint the town. This artistic effort resulted in his making the air bine with profamily, and a policeman meeting him was going si to feel certain, has been overdrawn."

\*\*Why didn't he have any money? Oh, he had been making a few Christmas presents, that was all. They had not been very handsome presents, he went on to say, but they had been numerous. He didn't believe in discriminating among his children, so whatever he gave one child he had to give all the other children something equally good. This is as it should be, of course. You ought not to have given one so a bicycle, just go off and buy five more bicycles and give them to your other boys for New Year presents. There is no objection to New Year gifts. In former times they were quite common, and if you feel that you have a good chance to retrieve your reputation by coming up to the mark on January I.

\*\*Got any presents readers have had the question pat to them? And how delightful it is to smile serencly and say "a few." How many of The Strak's readers have had the question pat to them? And how delightful it is to smile serencly and say "a few." There is, strange to say, a sort of free any presents yesterday?"

\*\*He went on a "took and the twon." This man at the your other boys of the present the morning friends who take care of him when he is "batting." There is, strange to

That means that you got a good many and that they were satisfactory. If you didn't get any, or if the one or two that you did get were mere perfunctory presents you are apt to remark about this, time that Christmas is a bore and ought to be done away with as a useless custom. A DREAM OF BOYHOOD.

One man was encountered Christmas day who had a peculiar experience to relate, and yet it sions is passing," said a New York caterer who has newly established himself in Washington. "Of is not so peculiar but that there are doubtless others whose experience has been similar. He said he had made merry Christmas eve and had | course all such fancies spread from the metroposeen Christmas come at 12 o'clock and had shaken hands all around and had then gone to bed. He had slept well, for his conscience was all sorts of expensive knick knacks. For expensive knick knacks. all sorts of expensive knick knacks. For extolerably clear and the temperature of his room was as he likes to have it—rather cold than warm. Toward morning he had begun to dream and he dreamt he was a boy again. He was in the big nursery where he used to sleep with his brother, and over in another part of the room was another bed where the two other brothers slept. He dream the was lying there asleep and that one of his brothers came over and jumped on the bed and shook him and told him in a whisper that it must be nearly day. "Let's light the gas and look in the stockings," he said. 'No, no; it isn't time yet. There's nothing

Then the brother crept down to the foot of Then the brother crept down to the foot of c bed, where the stockings hung in a row, and felt them.
"Bully, bully," he cried. "They're full and a particularly festive occasion at the house of he felt them. Bully, bully," he cried. "They're full and "Bully, bully," he cried. "They're full and hard as rocks. Come, come; let's have a light." And then they lit the gas and woke up the others and all four brothers crowded on one bed in the dim light of one gas jet, and there was a little uncertain streak of daylight coming through the shutters as they began to empty those wonderful stockings of their contents. Subdued cries of delight arose, and even at the risk of waking up father and mother in the room below there was shout of laughter. in the room below there was a shout of laughter when one boy, finding, as he thought, a fine chunk of chocolate in the toe of his stocking, bit it, only to discover that it was a piece of coal, for father and mother had seen fit to play

a practical joke.
Then, this man's dream went on, he and his brothers had sat there examining and re-examining their gifts until they began to use and 6 o'clock.

At the same hours these concerts are given on the green plat in front of headquarters on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This plat is broad daylight, blew a tremendous blast with his Christmas horn and another began to pound the headboard with a stick and Christmas

The flux and gold brooches and even diamonds. Of course, people who are ordinarily wealthy cannot travelers rarely afford such an expenditure and they are compelled either to go beyond their means or to content themselves with being 'out of it.' This credited with means or to content themselves with being 'out of it.' This credited with means or to content themselves with being 'out of it.' This credited with means or to content themselves with being 'out of it.' This content themselves with the content themselves with being 'out of it.' This content themselves with the content themselves with the conte of reveille. The noise was not altogether a dream, for it arose from the pounding of a servant on the door to wake the dreamer up servant on the door to wake the dreame. up and tell him it was time to dress for breakfast. It was all a dream. He was in his solitar; room. There was no stocking full of presents at the foot of the bed. There were no brother; near him. But he didn't get up right away. He lay there thinking of his dream—carried back a score of years, wondering if he had really been as happy then as he now thought he certainly would be if he could live it all over again. He was glad he had shaken hands with everybody the night before. He went to breakfast and shook hands with everybody again and he went down the street later in the day in the same spirit.

ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

What did you do on Christmas day, my dear sir? Did you come down to breakfast as cross as a bear and grunt out an ill-natured "good morning?" Did you grumbl. about the coffee and make ill-natured remarks because there was no maple sirup for your buckwheat cakes? Did you, as soon as possible, escape from domestic thraidom and hie you down town, there to particle of the insidious mestic thraidom and hie you down town, there to partake of the insidious beverages, which are the proper thing for this time of year? Now, if you did all this you did wrong and you know it. Here is what you should have done:

First. You should have come down to breakfast on time. There are difficulties in the way here, it is true, for, perudventure, Christmas eve may have been too much for you and you may wish to sleep off the effects. Perhaps, if may wish to sleep off the effects. Perhaps, if your wife or the other ladies that constitute your family are lenient, they will forgive you if you are a trifle late in getting up.
Second. After coming down stairs you should have pronounced the words, "Merry Christmas," in a loud and distinct tone of voice to each and every one.

every one.

Third. You should have presented, with appropriate remarks, the gifts you bore in your

Fourth. You should have, as you opened the presents which you found on your plate, de-clared that they were exactly the things you had been wishing for most. No matter what they are, always look surprised and pleased and say: "Why, I declare," that is what I have been

wanting for ever so long!"

Fifth. You should have over-eaten yourself at dinner. That is a custom that is not always observed, but the day is more successful when it is followed by indigestion.

AND THE DAY AFTER. "How are you feeling the day after Christ mas?" The question was asked of a citizen who looked rosy enough about the gills, but a "I'm glad its over," he said. "It was a great

"I see. Sit over there by the window where you can look at the family album while I get you a dinner. How do you like your chicken—stewed or fried?"

"F-f-fried!" stammered the astonished close. As I got the cash and turned I saw a man eyeing the money so greedily that an involuntary shiver of fear passed over me. I fort got the incident and monkeyed around in the town until nearly 10 c'clock that night, when I satted for home.

"Half way home was a piece of dark woods in which the body of the young popmaker had been found. As I looked at the side of the road I shivered with apprehension in spite of the Dutch courage I hadsborhed that evening. I saw some one trudging along in the road ahead of ne, but felt relived when I saw it was a woman. The woman stopped, and in a hoarse voice explained that her daughter, who is a side was on her way to visit her and saked for a lift.

"Glad to have company, I helped her into the sleigh and offered to take her muff, but she kept it in the other hand. Jolting over a rough piece of road she pulled one hand out of the muff, and my heart gree cold with fear. I caught the glitter of steel as the moon shome through an open place in the woods. With a presence of mind I wonder at to this day reat the horse savagely with the whip and dropped it by the side of the road. Explaining te the woman that the horse could not be held by any one but myself. I begged her to get out and pick up my whip. She carefully deposited her muff in the bottom of the sleigh and aprang out. As soon as he struct the ground is a shear of the words. With a presence of mind I wonder at to this day read the organization of the steel the words. With a presence of mind I wonder at to this day read the ground is a state of the content of the steel that way to be the steel the words. With a presence of mind I wonder at to this day read the cycle when I way to be the steel the words. With a presence of mind I wonder at to this day read the cycle when I way to be the steel the words. With a presence of mind I wonder at the words. With a presence of mind I wonder at the words. With a presence of mind I wonder at the words. With a presence of mind I wonder at the words. With a presence of mind I wonder

"How dreadful you must feel—wife and children dead—no home—in poor health and out of steady employment! While you are eating I'll telephone my husband to get you a place in the bank. You want something that's easy and pays well, of course? I'm sorry I'm out of currant jelly, but perhaps strawberry jam would do you?"

"I——"he began.

"I understand. It's not your fault that you are in this position—of course not. It's liable to happen to any one. Poor man! How the care lines have appeared on your brow, and how thin and starved you look! Perhaps you will amuse yourself with the piano while I prepare dinner?"

He got up, skulked out into the hall sideways. why, what's the matter?" asked the woman as he backed down the steps.
"Nuthin' much!" he muttered.
"But there must be! Have I in any manner wounded your sensitive feelings? Have I carelessly uttered words which brought up bitter recollections and caused you sorrow?"
"Noap," he replied as he backed out of the rate.

people, who do not expect much. Therefore, it is well to take things as they come and make the most of them. But if you resolved to be miserable on Christmas day you doubtless attained your object, for while a person may often be miserable in spite of his efforts to be happy he can always be miserable if he has determined to be so beforehand.

THE CORAL REEFS. How They Are Built Up Off the Coast of CURIOUS SPECIES OF TREES AND PLANTS ON THE ISLANDS THERE -- THE BAHAMIANS AND

OBTAINED-AN ISLAND PERS FROM INSECTS. Special Correspondence of The Evening Star KEY WEST, FLA., Dec. 20, 1891. The captains of some fishing and turtling vessels, who have been cruising among the Florida reefs, announce that islands which a few years since were mere heaps of rock are now covered with vegetation and that new species of trees are taking root on keys where they were unknown five years ago.

These islands are, it seems, following the old process of continent building and are gradu-

ered with a light vegetable mold produced by decaying vegetation and their subsoil being hard and permeated with brackish water. There is not much opportunity for the development of a varied and vigorous flora. The total number of botanical species found on all the keys extending from Dry Tortugas to Biscayne bay does not exceed 280, or about a fourth of the number found in other regions of equal extent, but the proportion of shrubs and trees is unusually large, being about a third of the whole, while the ratio of woody to herbaccous plants in other portions of the state is only one to seven. This makes the botany of the islands interesting, particularly as the prevailing species belong to the tropical and subtropical families found in the Bahamas and other islands of the West Indies. THE KIND OF TREES. \ The towering trees that thrive on the main-

land are strangers to the reef, their places being taken by the satinwood, mastic, crabwood, buttonwood, cedar, bay, wild fig, myrtle, chinchona and their kindred, and these often form dense thickets along the coasts which are impassable to even a bird. Vines and creepers impassable to even a bird. Vines and creepers are very abundant and frequently bind the shrubs so closely together that even a snake cannot crawl through them in some parts. The parasites are tough, flexible and woody, and so strong and long that one requires an ax or machete to cut through them. Some trees have the habit of sending out many lateral branches, evidently to secure as much elbow room, air and light as possible, and as these soon become one mass of tangled vines and soon become one mass of tangled vines and weeds a faint idea of the difficulty of traversing the woods may be obtained. I have essayed to force my way through places where the wild sapodilla, buttonwood, mastic and other trees grow and have always failed, owing to the density of the thickets and the abundance of

A very striking peculiarity of several of the all sorts of expensive knick knacks. For example, we have supplied each of the guests at a swell repast with mandolins and violins in miniature at \$10 each. On other occasions group of islands among the reefs differs radi-cally from all the others both in physical and botanical features. This group is about 150 miles in length and lies at almost right angles to the other keys. Its general trend is from northwest to southeast and its outlines are va-ried and broken. The most abundant trees on the group are the Cuban pine and the silvery thrinax, and wax myrtle and dwarf palmetto are not unco These and three herbaceous plants are the

only specimens that are indigenous alike to the ree's and northern Florida; so that the person recis and northern Florida; so that the person who is familiar with the trees of the mainland will meet few arboreal acquaintances on the coral islands of the south, although he may hear species having no relationship called by old familiar names, botanical lore not being a specialty of the Bahamians, who form the larger portion of the inhabitants of the reefs. Two species of plants on the reefs have secured a reputation that is sure to commend them to the notice of travelers. One is the them to the notice of travelers. One is the manchineel or Florida upas, whose juices are poisonous and raise a severe blister on any part of the body they may touch, and the other is a chaparral, which has such a fetid odor that an extract of the berries will disperse an audience ferract of the berries will disperse an audience from a ball room or theater in a few moments. Some wags chew these berries and then spit on the floor of a room which they wish to see cleared of its occupants, and generally succeed in their purpose, the smell being overpowering. Key West has a municipal law against the use of these berries, and as it is strictly enforced travelers rarely hear of the peculiar virtues of the chaparral.

credited with many bad qualities, but, like the manchincel, it is not so fatal as its reputation would lead one to expect.

THE CONCE AND THEIR MODE OF LIFE.

The Bahamians who live on the reefs are generally known as Conchs to the native Ploridians and Cubans. They are mainly engaged in raising pineapples, bananas, mangoes, sapodilloes and other tropical fruit, which they sell at Key West and ports on the mainland. When they West and ports on the mainland. When they are not cultivating the trees they engage in fishing, sponging, turtling, "coraling" or in gathering sea shells for northern markets.

The lives they lead are both arduous and wearisome, and are unrelieved by even the small social gatherings that make farm life on the mainland bearable. The only compensation they have is the delightful climate, which enables them to work throughout the year, but as an offset to that they are harassed for eight months in the twelve by awarms of measurities. months in the twelve by swarms of mosquitoes, sand flies, deer flies and other winged plagues that make outdoor labor an earthly purgatory. The people are compelled to use braziers filled with palmetto chips or rags on their tables while eating to keep the mosquitoes away, and are often forced to close their doors at night and sit in darkness to prevent the winged vocalists from finding them. This remark refers chiefly to the summer and autumn, insects being quite scarce during the winter. One island called Bamboo Key is said to be so free from insects at all seasons of the year. One island called Bamboo Key is said to be so free from insects at all seasons of the year that sponging and fishing vessels run to it to avoid the attacks of mosquitoes and to enable the crews to get some sleep. The winged plagues are said to have been banished from this region by a half brother of St. Patrick, who was known as St. Bamboo through having preached for many years in China. He stopped at this island, it seems, while circumavigating the globe and was so much annoyed by mosquitoes and their congeners that he banished them from the region forever and a day. The sailors who work along the reefs often bless him for his good deeds and wish he would return and try the same experiment on all the

return and try the same experiment on all the other keys.

The work of the sponge gatherers, turtle hunters and fishermen is fairly well known to many readers, but I doubt if any outside the Keys know much about the labors of the "coralers," whose business is to supply traders with those beautiful specimens of white coral seen in drug stores and the offices of merchants.

BARD WORK OF THE CORALERS. These men are frequently compelled to dive forty or fifty feet and wield a heavy crowbar in breaking up the coral rock until they can scarcely breathe. They are then hauled up by their comrades with a stout rope and, after resting awhile, again descend to bring up the

pieces.

They are often forced to fight sharks, sting-rays and sunfishes while below, so that their business is no sinecure. There is no red coral in Florida, all found thus far being white and divided into classes according to fineness, the coarsest being known as tree coral and the finest as maiden's finger. When the coral is brought up it is placed in barrels of salt water and soaked for four days in order to kill the minute creatures that construct it.
At the end of that time all the animals are dead and the barrels exhale a most disa-greeable odor, which overpowers some persons, but which has no effect on others. It is locally said to be "good for the lungs," but that is said about almost every villatnous smell in that

in fresh water, then placed to dry and bleach in the shade, but where the dew can reach it. If the shade, but where the dew can reach it. If it cures properly it is fit for shipment in five or six days, but if it is neglected or allowed to remain too long in the shade it mildews so badly as to be almost worthless.

All the handsomest specimens are shipped to New York, the poor being sold in Key West or in the coast towns by sailors, who are capital hands at bargaining.

There is comprratively little demand for white coral now, and specimens that would have realized \$5 or \$6 a few years ago can now be bought for \$1 or \$2. The coral business being both arduous, dangerous and unprofitable, the Conchs of the reefs are giving it up for something that pays better.

region.
The coral is next washed twice or three time

PLANTING RAINBOW TROUT. utiful and Gamesome Fishes From Cali-

THE RAINBOW TROUT OF THE PACIFIC coast, so celebrated for its beauty of color THE LIPE THEY LEAD-HOW THE CORAL IS ing, size and game qualities, has been success fully introduced in the western part of North Carolina. Four years ago 100 fingerlings of this species were procured from the United States fish commission by Mr. Henry Stewart and placed in a breeding pond adjoining the Cullasagee river. This romantic stream runs for several miles through Highlands Park, the property of Mr. Stewart, in Lincoln county. every other good-sized stream in that section,

fornia for North Carolina Waters.

ally increasing in size and drawing closer together, except in spots where currents are swift and tideways powerful. Their soil consists of lime and sedimentary rocks cov

"Sweet Water"—are of an ley temperature and as transparent as crystal. The stream winds among towering mountains and through lovely valleys in the picturesque "Land of the Sky," every now and then madly rushing with foamflecked torrents through narrow, rock-confined banks, to burst forth presently and leap some frightful gorge. The sides of the stream are fringed with beautiful rhododendrons and azaleas in the greatest profusion, while the nodding boughs of white pine and hemlock are mirrored below. Boulders from the size of a water bucket to that of a house strew its course. To follow such a rugged and impetuous river with reel and line is no child's play, but the lover of the gentle art and the admirer of nature in her grandest aspects are alike rewarded for the toil it costs them. Such are the waters in which the lovely and gamesome rainbow trout has found an eastern home. Speaking of the fate of his fingerlings Mr. Stewart writes:
"The next summer these fish had increased in

size to ten inches and two of them were taken in the pond. A few had gone over the dam into the river and one was taken four miles down the stream. Two years ago I was as-tounded to find these fish had grown to a size of twenty-two inches and a weight of three pounds. They had also gone down the stream for ten miles, and one of this size and weight was taken in my lower pond five miles down the stream and one in the pond where they were first planted. The past season a large number were taken from one to three pounds in weight, but the river was full of small fish. Evidently there are some big ones the size of which no one has as yet ascertained, because no tackle used has been able to hold them. However, I should judge there are some of these fish in the stream quite seven pounds in weight or even more and will measure over two feet in length. On account of the swiftness of the stream, its rocky banks and its narrow and crooked bed it is difficult to hold such a large fish with fine tackle and a slender rod. Consequently every one hooked has got away. They rise to the fly more freely than the common trout and beat them out as fighters. They are as lively as a salmon and give the angler all he can do to secure them. For the table they are as good as the speckled trout, and their red vidently there are some big ones the size of as good as the speckled trout, and their red flesh is fat and firm and finely flavored. Three | front door is a deviation from the simple mus-

A FORTUNE ON ONE THROW. Probably the Stiffest Game of Dice Ever Piayed in the Oil Regions.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer. A difference of but two in the upturned dice gle throw. The details of this occurrence, recalled in sojourning contemplation of the fast departing traces of other days in the town where it occurred, may be of interest.

From the time of its first importance as an oil town Petroleum Center in Pennsylvania was known as a famous place for gambling. There was, however, no particular place in which this ambling was carried on. An engine house saloon, office or private room-any place served the purpose-and a rickety table, a greasy writing desk or a board laid across the head of an oil barrel answered as well as the equip-

ments of a gambling palace.

In 1888-69 the vicinity of Petroleum Center was the richest in the oil region and one of the richest in the world. The lands all about the richest in the world. The lands all about the town were making their owners rich. Among these pieces of property was the Woods farm, lying upon the hill to the west of the place. Its big production at that time was selling at from \$3\$ to \$5\$ a barrel. Samuel A. Woods was the owner of this rich deposit of oil, and his royalty from it yielded him a princely income. He was then about 35 years of age, and was as full of fun as he was of business. He dressed well, wearing daily diamonds worth from \$5,000 to \$8,000, lived high, and was foremost in all the enterprises in oil developments. In 1888 he imitations and folks sneer a thing that's a conv. 88,000, lived high, and was foremost in all the enterprises in oil developments. In 1868 he built the largest and first complete iron tank—40,000 barrels—then along Oil creek, and into it his farm poured its liquid wealth. Woods had a noted foundness for throwing dice, and was usually lucky. He was ready at any time to the best and most original efforts of mediocrity. Some of the old castles in Europe are veritable art inuseums of housefurnishings. Until recent years they have been guarded with usually lucky. He was ready at any time to throw for stakes ranging from \$50 to \$100 or \$1,000. It was seldom he would throw for less than the first named sum.

One night in the winter of 1868-69 he was spending the evening with a party of friends in the Rechester House at Petroleum Center.

Among the party was Col. Brady, another rich most marvelous pieces of cabinet work representations.

in the Rechester House at Petroleum Center. Among the party was Col. Brady, another rich producer and a man who had earned his title on the battlefields of the rebellion.

In the course of the evening Woods said:

"Colonel, I'll toss the dice with you for \$50."

"All right," was the colonel's prompt reply. The first throw Brady won, continuing to do so until he had won \$650 of Wood's money. This trifle just wetted their appetites, and the chance contest then began in earnest.

The amount of the stakes was increased from time to time and Woods' losses rapidly crept into the thousands. Luck was against him, but as he was perfectly sober and the friends present knew that he would regard as little less than insult any suggestion that it was time to quit, feeling abundantly able to pay any amount he lost, all they had to do was to watch the two men with increasing interest.

To pass on from the process to the result, when one of the morning hours was ushered in, Woods had lost \$32,000 and Brady held his check for that sum. At this juncture Woods said to the colonel: "Now, I am willing to double the amount and let each of us take but one throw and the highest take the stakes. You already have my check for the \$82,000. If I one throw and the highest take the stakes. You already have my check for the \$32,000. If I lose I will write you another for the full amount here tonight, and it will be cashed at the bank

here tonight, and it will be cashed at the bank tomorrow."

"All right," said Col. Brady, "I accept."

The interest of the bystanders was now worked up to the highest notch, the dice were produced and Woods had the first throw. Eleven spots turned up as his count. Col. Brady then threw and but nine black dots turned up to be counted. Woods, therefore, saved a good-sized fortune on the throw, for had he lost that \$64,000 would have been paid with as much promptness as though it had been a part of a legitimate business transaction. Woods then proposed that they start in anew with \$10 as the amount of the stakes. The colonel responded and soon all the cash he had with him—about \$200—was transferred to the pockets of Woods. "Here, colonel," said Woods, "is \$20. I can't see a man go away dead broke."

And so the greatest game of dice on record in dead broke." .

And so the greatest game of dice on reco

he oil regions came to a close.

From the Detroit Free Press.
She was a sturdy little woman of eight year

or thereabouts, comfortably but poorly dressed and carrying a big market basket on her little arm. Her face was pressed close to a window pane, inside of which were Christmas dolls in their holiday finery. A lady who was noticing

"Why not?"

ARTISTIC FURNISHINGS

New Designs for Making the Home Com fortable and Attractive. From the Upholsterer.

If there is any home that is thoroughly un homelike it is the place that has been put into the hands of some unsympathetic decorator and furnished upon the hard, stern lines laid down by some correct epoch of design. It is all well enough to have a home furnished correctly, but a house needs the stamp of personality to make it all and wholly a home, for the occupant is bereft of a large share of pleasure if her establishment is robbed of all reminiscence Its troubled floods have always abounded, like and sentiment. The get-rich-quick people who suddenly realize that their surrounding are inartistic, are never satisfied with what a with the common speckled trout, and on that account it was anticipated that these newcomers would do well.

The rainbow trout, otherwise called the California or Pacific brook trout, is found in nearly decorator would call "correct furnishings." fornia or Pacific brook trout, is found in nearly all the waters of the Pacific slope, though more particularly in California. It is a beautiful fish, its silvery sides adorned with irridescent tints. In California it attains a weight of seven pounds. However, it is said that specimens weighing thirty pounds have been taken from Lake Tahoe. They are caught with fly or spoon bait and will fight every inch of the way, from the time they are hooked to the moment of their deposit in the basket.

The waters of the Cullasagee—Cherokee for "Sweet Water"—are of an ley temperature and



bright orange-colored corner cushion, and it presents an inviting spot in the hall; it is the latest fad in hall furnishings. It is becoming more and more the fashion to

mang lace curtains straight so as to show the full design.

For some time past the public have been looking for an adjustable grille with shelf attachment upon which to place bric-a-brac, the A new form of draping the glass panel in the

years ago I saw them mating on the spawning beds with the speckled trout, and last year some evidently cross-bred fish were caught and I am watching closely for a specimen to fully determine this."

I a watching closely for a specimen to fully determine this."

I a watching closely for a specimen to fully determine this."

I a watching closely for a specimen to fully determine this."

I a watching closely for a specimen to fully determine this. The work in a mesh as big as a quarter of a dollar. On each side of this is a length of silk drapery four or five inches wide. This silk drapery four or five inches wide. This scheme is varied by arranging the network in other forms-in cross stripes or diagon ARTISTIC FURNISHINGS FROM FRANCE.

It's a singular fact that the foot stools made in this country are all of a common kind dots, but each dot represented \$32,000 and the Everything in this line that is beautiful and winner was made that much richer by his sint rich comes from Europe. They we called





Fountainbleau contain, it is estimated \$10,000,000 worth of furnishings, illu

BETTER TRY TO BE BIG POTATOR The Sage Advice of a Farmer to Chi

From the Chicago Tribune.

Among the visitors at the South Side pub schools last Friday was a retired farmer und of one of the pupils. Observing that her guest appeared much interested in the children, the teacher invited him to favor the school

few remarks. "Children," said the visitor in a kindly but "Children," said the visitor in a kindly but brusque manner, "how many of you ever saw a lead of potatoes going to market?" Only a few hands went up, for Chicago school children are not so favored in that line as their town cousins. "Well," continued the guest, "any one who sees a lead of potatoes going to market will notice that only the big once are on top. The little ones are at the bottom. In the shaking up that the lead gets in going to market the big potatoes crowd the little ones to the bottom. This world of oura, my little friends, may be compered to a lead of potatoes.